



MEETING SUMMARY

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2013 IMPROVE DATA AND ANALYSIS OBJECTIVE 11:00 A.M. – NOON 815 S STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA

Meeting Objectives

Discuss and suggest revisions for the Related Actions associated with the Update 2013 Objective relating to Data and Analysis:

“Improve and expand monitoring, data management, and analysis to support decision-making, especially in light of uncertainties, that support Integrated Regional Water Management and flood and water resources management systems.”

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

The Update 2013 Objectives Web-a-thon was held on June 13-14, 2013 to discuss the draft 17 Objectives and the associated Related Action for the Water Plan. Introductions were made around the room and online. Paul Massera welcomed everyone and noted that an online wrap up session will be conducted on July 9th, to conclude any items needing additional discussion. The content reviewed during the web-a-thon will inform the Implementation Plan for Update 2013. He explained that the first few pages of the workbook provide definitions of terms and the Water Plan mission, vision and goals – which sets the context for the objectives and related actions. A brief review of the Data and Analysis objective and related actions would be followed by discussion on the text.

Overview

Jose Alarcon, DWR Project Team, provided brief background on how the objectives and related actions were developed. He and Francisco Guzman have reviewed the 37 Featured State Plans, related state agency plans with bearing on the Water Plan, and correlated the respective recommendations with the Water Plan objectives. These were forwarded to the subject matter experts for consideration in updating the related actions for each objective. Collectively, the objectives identify what is needed to accomplish the goals of the Water Plan. The related actions represent what is needed to accomplish each particular objective.

The workbook contains a column for performance measures, which will help track each action and inform the next Water Plan Progress Report. Draft measures have been proposed for some of the objectives, and feedback is welcomed on potential performance measures – as well as the objectives and related actions.



Document Walk Through

Rich Juricich, DWR, Data and Analysis Lead, reviewed the Data and Analysis Objective. He referred to the Related Actions, found on page 31-36 of the workbook. He explained that the actions are grouped into four major themes, and summarized the actions associated with each theme. It was noted that Related Action #7 came from the Delta Plan, which expands the work done in the Central Valley for Update 2013. Mr. Juricich reported that Related Action #13 would be removed from the list, since it is very close to Related Action #9.

Related Actions

The proposed Related Actions, and the ensuing discussion, are presented below. Please note that the actions below have been abridged from the original text and the sub-actions are not included:

General Discussion

- Overall, there was general agreement that this list came across as very long. Also, some actions are very high-level and others are very detailed. This much detail, while helpful for staff discussions, is not needed at the policy level. Many of the details are provided in Chapter 6 and a link should be provided to direct readers there (or to an appendix, or relevant RMSs) for additional information. Some details could serve as performance measures.
- The Water Plan has two concepts with very similar names: IRWM and IWM. This is likely to cause confusion among readers. Significant top-to-bottom work needs to be done to make sure the concepts are clear. That clarity is needed up-front.
- Consider reviewing the merits of the proposed actions and whether some of the sub-items for Related Action #8 should stand alone.
- Section 1 (Collaborative Processes) seems process-related. These actions could go into the Process Guide for the respective Updates.
- Some of the objectives seem like good items for internal discussion at DWR, but not for a statewide policy objective (especially those in Section1).

Discussion of Objective

- The objective itself should say, "...support Integrated Water Management." It should not say "regional" – the regional folks have their own data. This objective is about the important and critical things that are needed for the State to understand the bigger picture. Since IWM is all inclusive, it's not necessary to call out flood and water resource management systems.



Recommendations to Link Collaborative Processes with Technical Enhancements

1. Embrace Shared Vision Planning.

Discussion:

- Identify “who” is being asked to embrace SVP; move to process guide.
 - Consider referring to “collaborative planning” rather than SVP.
2. DWR should develop guidelines describing the responsibilities of subject matter experts to follow professional standards when developing content for the Water Plan and procedures for responding to comments received.

Discussion:

- Move to process guide; make the guidelines general so that they don’t become outdated or end up tying your hands.
3. DWR should develop guidelines for how the Water Plan manages public comments that contradict findings of staff subject matter experts including criteria for forming external panels to advise on controversial matters.

Discussion:

- Move to process guide; make the guidelines general so that they don’t become outdated or end up tying your hands.
4. DWR should develop guidelines for clarifying when lack of consensus on a subject or lack of resources will require deferring content development to a future Update.

Discussion:

- Move to process guide; make the guidelines general so that they don’t become outdated or end up tying your hands.

Recommendations to Provide Effective Analytical Tools

5. DWR should take the lead in developing shared conceptual understanding of the water management system and how the real world functions of the system are represented within analytical tools at different spatial and temporal scales for use by local, regional, state, and federal entities.

Discussion:

- DWR may not be the appropriate lead for this item. Local and regional items are very specific. It’s more than a system. There are cultural and institutional



intricacies that the State may not understand. The State could discuss some of the obstacles, which may also be contained in IRWM plans.

- The California Center for Science and Technology is looking at this for technology. This is one of the most difficult areas to address.
 - This action is talking about tools that can be used throughout the system. It's preferable to be using the same basic tools and metrics – if possible – to integrate models across the state. This is difficult and needs to involve the modelers who are working on this. It's essential to do this to make data usable.
 - We need to better describe what the “shared conceptual understanding of the water system” means. Is this a model grid and the meta-data associated with it, or something broader?
 - Scope this to a 5-year recommendation and be clearer about the intent (that it relates to modeling).
 - This should start with an internal discussion. We can't expect all the regions to be aligned on this, with the State doing the aligning.
6. DWR should support the California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum, in updating their 2005 modeling protocols and standards that provide guidance to water stakeholders and decision-makers, and their technical staff, as models are developed and used to solve California's water and environmental problems.

Discussion:

- How often are these updated? Consider including that information.
7. DWR, in consultation with the State Water Board and other agencies and stakeholders, should evaluate and include in the next and all future Water Plan updates, information needed to track water supply reliability performance measures identified in the Delta Plan. DWR should expand on the pilot studies developed in Update 2013 for the Central Valley to include coverage of statewide vulnerabilities.

Discussion:

- The reference to all future Water Plan updates may overstate what needs to be done.
- Clarify that the water supply reliability performance measures are for the entire state.
- Say “regional self-sufficiency” rather than “regional self-reliance.”



Recommendations to Improve Information

8. A DWR-convened technical task force of State, federal, Tribal and local water and resource managers and planners should develop a strategic plan describing specific information needs to support Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) activities and the institutional arrangements for collecting and maintaining the information. The plan should identify the range of different program needs to respond to flood and drought management, climate change, ecosystem restoration, water quality improvement, and other Integrated Water Management (IWM) objectives.

Discussion:

- Say: ...resource managers “and/or” planners...
 - The last line before the bullets says “program needs” – whose program is that?
 - Is bullet #b referring to CIMIS? If not, where does this come from?
 - Item #c – NOAA has a US Drought Monitoring map that has indicators; see Anisa will send link to Judie) (fix numbering)
 - Item #d – who will do this?
 - Items #f and #h could be incorporated into one item.
 - Some of these sub-actions might be considered as stand-alone items.
9. DWR, in coordination with the State Water Board, Department of Public Health, Public Utilities Commission, Energy Commission, Bureau of Reclamation, California Urban Water Conservation Council and other stakeholders, should develop a water use and water quality measurement and reporting strategy and implementation plan. This will better inform water planning and management efforts, especially management of aquifers, and will support greater accuracy for hydrologic budgets.

Discussion:

- Line 5, BOR has an annual decree reporting account, with water quality information that is sent to the State Board. You might want to consider if that would work for the rest of the state.
 - What does “water use” mean? Is it water diversions and consumptive use?
 - What about the phrase “hydrologic budget” – is that the same as “water budget”? (Response: Water budget is the term used by retailers.)
10. Delete this item, it’s all been done and the report was released last year.



11. State agencies should partner with research institutions to identify focused research needs to provide guidance on activities to reduce California's vulnerability to climate change. State government should explore partnerships with the federal government, other Western states and research institutions on climate change adaptation.

Discussion:

- Is there a specific NOAA Assessment Center that we're looking at?

12. State government should sponsor science-based, watershed adaptation research pilot projects to address water management and ecosystem needs. Funding for pilot projects should only be granted in those regions that have adopted IRWM plans that meet DWR's plan standards and have broad stakeholder support.

Discussion:

No comments.

13. (Deleted – overlap with Related Action #9).

14. DWR should work with local flood management agencies to compile statewide information of past and current alluvial fan flooding events, building upon the information assembled by the Alluvial Fan Task Force.

Discussion:

No comments.

15. Improve decision-making through the use of best available science by state entities and agencies by leveraging the scientific community to support management and policy directions, through compiling and translating data into accessible information products that can be efficiently applied by water managers, decision-makers and the public.

Discussion:

- This is an impossible sentence and very confusing. It needs a period somewhere. Is this a recommendation to improve sharing of information? This needs to be re-written.

Recommendations to Improve Sharing of Information

16. DWR should lead a collaborative effort to explore how information can be more effectively integrated among local, regional and statewide water planning and management activities. The initial focus of this effort should look at using information from Urban Water Management Plans, and other related activities, to support IRWM Plans and the California Water Plan while streamlining reporting requirements.



Discussion:

- What is the time period for incorporating UWMPs?
- Include Ag Water Management Plans.
- Item #b – BOR is also doing modeling studies (the Colorado River Basin Study).
- There is considerable overlap with the Regional Reports, IRWMPs, UWMPs, and Ag WMPs. It would be helpful if the Regional Reports could be focused, rather than providing a huge summary about everything in the region. Make the description way shorter about what is going on and provide links to the different IRWMPs. Each Update should have a topic or focus that could be addressed for each region. (Such as item #16.) Lew Moeller commented that the Water Plan is moving towards that, where the Regional reports would live on line, and those who have content would update the document through a wiki.

ACTION ITEM: Have a sub-group work on this for Update 2018.

17. DWR should develop the Water Planning Information Exchange (Water PIE) to share water management information between State, federal, regional, and local agencies and governments, and citizen monitoring efforts.

Discussion:

- Include Tribal agencies and governments.
- Who is using the Water PIE? Would we track who uses this?

18. Collaboratively develop guidelines for data collection and management that facilitate sharing of information between agencies by identifying and cataloging existing water data for California, creating a water data dictionary, and developing standards for water data monitoring, collection, and reporting.

Discussion:

- Who will develop? For use by whom?
- Item #h, move into performance measures, include QC/QA measures.
- Item #i, don't reinvent the wheel.



Attendance

In Room

Karl Longley, California Water Institute, UC Fresno
Bob Siegfried, Carmel Area Wastewater District

Jose Alarcon, DWR, Water Quality Lead
Megan Fidell, DWR, RMS Coordinator, Progress Report Lead
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management
Francisco Guzman, DWR, Companion Plans and Objectives Lead
Rich Juricich, DWR, Data and Analysis Lead
Jennifer Kofoed, DWR, Water Technology Lead
Paul Massera, DWR, Water Plan Program Manager
Lewis Moeller, DWR, Water Plan Project Manager
Elizabeth Patterson, DWR, Land Use Lead
Maury Roos, DWR, Chief Hydrologist

Lisa Beutler, MWH, Water Plan Executive Facilitator
Judie Talbot, CCP, Facilitator

Webinar

Angela Anderson, Bureau of Reclamation
Colin Bailey, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Erika Barraza, Carollo Engineers
Marilyn Boehnke, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Dave Bolland, Association of California Water Agencies
Rick Breuer, State Water Board
Kurt Broz, Pala Tribe
Celeste Cantu, Santa Ana Watershed Protection Agency
Ronnie Cohen, journalist
Jerry De La Piedra, Santa Clara Valley Water District
Anisa Divine, Imperial Irrigation District
Debbie Espe, San Diego County Water Agency
Aaron Fukuda, Tulare Irrigation District
Milasol Gaslan, Santa Ana Regional Water Board
Carol Hall, Kleinfelder
Earle Hartling, Los Angeles County Sanitation District
Jack Hawks, California Water Association
Sachiko Itagaki, Kennedy Jenks
Chuck Jachens, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Alex Kim, UC Irvine
Kathy Mannion, Regional Council of Rural Counties
Dudley McFadden, Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Objectives Web-a-thon

Improve Data and Analysis for Decision-making

June 13, 2013



Margie Namba, Granite Construction
Mark Norton, Santa Ana Watershed Protection Authority
Jodi Pontureri, State Water Board
Eric Osterling, Kings River Conservation District
Laleh Rastegarzadeh, State Water Board
Nathaniel Roth, UC Davis
Tracy Slavin, Bureau of Reclamation
Tony St. Amant, Water Policy Advocate
Sergio Vargas, Ventura County Watershed Protection District
Mike Wade, California Farm Water Coalition
Betsy Walton, California Emergency Management Agency
Marsha Westropp, Orange County Water District
Emilia Wisniewski, East Bay Municipal Utility District
Betty Yee, Central Valley Regional Water Board
Mary Zauner, Los Angeles County Sanitation District
David Zoldoske, California Water Institute, UC Fresno

Carmel Brown, DWR, Executive Assistant, Integrated Water Management
Abby Carevic, DWR, Northern Region Office, Water Supply Evaluations
Kent Frame, DWR, Water Use and Efficiency
Nancy King, DWR, Water Recycling and Desalination
John Kirk, DWR, South-Central Region Office, Groundwater Section
Nancy Miller, DWR, Water Recycling and Desalination
Salomon Miranda, DWR, Floodplain Management
Toni Pezzetti, DWR, Water Recycling and Desalination
Terri Wegener, DWR, Manager, Statewide Flood Management